

REQUIREMENTS

The DHS-1926, Preliminary Adoptive Family Assessment, must be used to document information and/or assess a prospective adoptive family that expresses an interest in a child for the purposes of adoption **when one of the following applies:**

- There is another family who currently has placement of the child and **all** of the following circumstances exist:
 - The family with placement of the child has demonstrated an ability to meet the physical and emotional needs of the child.
 - The child has established a close emotional attachment with the family with whom they are placed.
 - Removal of the child from the placement family is likely to result in psychological harm to the child.
 - The other prospective adoptive family does not have or has not maintained a relationship with the child through visits or other communication.
- A relative that has had no previous relationship with the child is applying for adoption.
- A relative who lives outside the state of Michigan is requesting adoption of a specific child and requesting an Adoptive Family Assessment through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) office may result in an unacceptable delay of adoption.
- The prospective family is excluded from consideration; see ADM 0540, Exclusions from Adoptive Family Assessment.

Note: The DHS-1926 must document the reason(s) why the prospective family is excluded from consideration.

- The prospective family was previously found to be unsuitable for placement of the child(ren) and a DHS-197, Relative/Unrelated Caregiver Home Study or licensing evaluation was completed by the foster care worker.

Note: If the prospective family was previously denied placement of the child but was otherwise found to be appropriate/approved by foster care staff, a full BCAL-3130

Initial Foster Home/Adoption Evaluation (see ADM 0510) must be completed (for example, a relative lived out of state and the plan was reunification so the child was not placed).

Note: If extenuating circumstances exist that are not covered above, a decision to use the DHS-1926 requires second-line supervisory approval.

Best Interests of the Child Met

If, after completing the DHS-1926 for the interested family, the worker determines that the best interests of the child may be met by placing the child with this family, a full BCAL-3130, Initial Foster Home/Adoption Evaluation of the interested family must be completed.

Distribution

A copy of the completed DHS-1926 (signed and dated), must be given to the applicants if a BCAL-3130 will not be completed. The applicants must sign the assessment or an acknowledgement form to document their receipt and review of the document.